

## CLAIMS

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1. Use of rubber latex in combination with starch.
2. Rubber latex as claimed in claim 1 comprising an amount of starch, which rubber latex has a reduced allergen activity as compared to the same rubber latex without starch.
- 5 3. Rubber latex according to claim 2 **characterized in that** the rubber latex comprises an amount of starch for reducing the allergen activity of latex such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 50%, preferably maximally 40%, more  
10 preferably maximally 30%, most preferably maximally 25% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.
4. Rubber latex according to claim 2 or 3 **characterized in that** the rubber latex comprises an  
15 amount of starch for reducing the allergen activity of latex such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 20%, preferably maximally 15%, more preferably maximally 10%, most preferably maximally 5% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as  
20 measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.
5. Rubber latex according to claim 2, 3 or 4 **characterized in that** the starch is a modified starch.
6. Rubber latex according to claim 5 **characterized in that** the modified starch is obtainable  
25 by gelatinising the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking the starch with glyoxal.
7. Rubber latex according to any of the claims 2-6 **characterized in that** the starch is potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch or waxy rice starch.
- 30 8. Method for reducing the allergen activity of rubber latex comprising incorporating an amount of starch in the rubber latex.
9. Method according to claim 8 **characterized in that** the amount of starch that is incorporated in the

rubber latex is such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 50%, preferably maximally 40%, more preferably maximally 30%, most preferably maximally 25% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.

10. Method according to claim 8 or 9 **characterized in that** the amount of starch that is incorporated in the rubber latex is such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 20%, preferably maximally 15%, more preferably maximally 10%, most preferably maximally 5% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.

11. Method according to claim 8, 9 or 10 **characterized in that** the starch is a modified starch.

12. Method according to claim 11 **characterized in that** the modified starch is obtainable by gelatinising the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking the starch with glyoxal.

13. Method according to any of the claim 8-12 **characterized in that** the starch is potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch or waxy rice starch.

14. Rubber latex article comprising rubber latex according to claims 2-7, wherein at least the surface contacting the skin of the user is fabricated from the said rubber latex.

15. Rubber latex article according to claim 14 **characterized in that** the article is a surgical glove.

16. Rubber latex article according to claim 14 **characterized in that** the article is a condom.

17. Rubber latex article according to claim 14 **characterized in that** the article is an inflatable balloon.

18. Use of starch for reducing the allergen activity of rubber latex.

19. Use according to claim 18 **characterized in that** the starch is a modified starch.

20. Use according to claim 19 **characterized in that** the modified starch is obtainable by gelatinising the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking the starch with glyoxal.

5           21. Use according to any of the claims 18, 19 or 20 **characterized in that** the starch is potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch or waxy rice starch.

22. Use of rubber latex according to any of the claims 2-7 for the manufacture of rubber latex articles.

10           23. Use of starch as claimed in claim 1 as donning powder for surgical gloves.

24. Use as claimed in claim 23 **characterized in that** the starch is a modified starch.

15           25. Use according to claim 24 **characterized in that** the modified starch is a granular, low crystalline, preferably non-crystalline, starch.

26. Use according to claim 25 **characterized in that** the low-crystalline starch has a V-type crystal structure.

20           27. Use according to claim 24, 25 or 26 **characterized in that** the birefringence of the modified starch is less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 10%, and most preferably less than 5% of native starch.

25           28. Use according to any of the preceding claims 23-27 **characterized in that** less than 75% of the modified starch is soluble in cold water.

29. Use according to any of the preceding claims 23-28 **characterized in that** the modified starch is  
30 modified potato starch, modified corn starch, modified rice starch, or modified waxy corn starch.

30. Surgical glove provided with modified starch as a donning powder at least on the surface of the glove to be contacting the skin of the user.

35           31. Surgical glove according to claim 30 **characterized in that** the modified starch is a granular, low crystalline, preferably non-crystalline, starch.

32. Surgical glove according to claim 31

**characterized in that** the low-cristalline starch has a V-type crystal structure.

33. Surgical glove according to claim 31, 31 or 32 **characterized in that** the birefringence of the modified starch is less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 10%, and most preferably less than 5% of native starch.

34. Surgical glove according to any of the claims 30-33 **characterized in that** less than 75% of the modified starch is soluble in cold water.

35. Surgical glove according to any of the preceding claims 30-34 **characterized in that** the modified starch is preferably modified potato starch, modified corn starch, modified rice starch, or modified waxy corn starch.